CBSE has informed that there is no resistance to the implementation of Adolescence Education Programme in it affiliated schools, but there are media reports about State Government of Maharashtra not favouring this on the perception that sex education was being imparted and that the material being used was not sensitive to cultural ethos.

(c) No. Sir. Adolescence Education Programme responds to the learning needs of the adolescent and is meant to equip the adolescent to develop life-skills and to avoid risky behaviour.

Literacy rate among SCs

†4159. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the low literacy rate among scheduled castes in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by Government to increase the literacy rate among SCs; and

(d) the details of schemes introduced by Government for imparting education to the SCs in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) According to 2001 Census the literacy rate of scheduled castes was 54.69% as against the national average of 64.84%. Whereas the increase in the overall literacy rate of the country during 1991-2001 was only 12.63%, the increase in the literacy rate of scheduled castes during the same period was 17.28%.

(c) and (d) The Universalisation of Elementary Education and eradication of adult illiteracy from the two-pronged strategy for improving the literacy rate of the country. Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) is a comprehensive programme for universalizing quality Elementary Education

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

by 2010. The SSA promotes diverse strategies, specially targeting scheduled caste children. The SSA seeks to a develop context specific intervention to tackle the problems of education of scheduled caste children. Some of the interventions of SSA are as follows:

- Providing adequate infrastructure for elementary schooling in districts with concentration of scheduled caste population.
- Freetext books to scheduled caste children from classes I—VIII.
- Provision of Rs. 15 lakhs to each districts for special innovative activities to promote education of scheduled caste children.

Two programmes for education of girls at elementary level—the National Programme for Education of Girls at Elementary Level (NPEGEL) and Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) have also been launched. Under the NPEGEL programme, special focus is given to education of girls from scheduled caste community. Kastruba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya scheme is specially targeted to provide schools with residential facilities at the elementary level for girls belonging to SC/ST/OBC and minority communities. Out of 2180 KGBVs sanctioned so far, 242 have been sanctioned in scheduled caste dominant blocks. 16750 scheduled caste girls have been enrolled in 1039 KGBVs, operational so far, which is 27% of the total enrolment.

NCERT operates the National Talent Search Scheme for pursuing courses in science and social science up to doctoral level and in professional courses like medicine and engineering up to second degree level subject to fulfilment of the conditions. Out of 1000 scholarships, 150 are reserved for scheduled castes. The National Institute of Open Schooling gives the SC/ ST students concession in admission fees to the extent of Rs. 200/- for bridge courses, Rs. 250/- for secondary courses and Rs.300/- for senior secondary courses.

The National Literacy Mission aims to impart functional literacy to adult illiterates in the 15-35 age group. The main programme under the NLM include Total Literacy Campaign to impart basic literacy to the non-literates followed by Post Literacy Programme for reinforcement of literacy skills to the neo-literates and thereafter Continuing Education Programme

for providing opportunities for life-long educational opportunities. So far, the literacy programme have covered 597 districts in the country. Though under the literacy programme all sections of the community irrespective of caste, creed and gender are covered, the majn focus, however, is on scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, females, minorities and other disadvantaged groups of people. It is estimated that 23% of the beneficiaries of literacy programme belong to scheduled castes.

Increase in the number of students in secondary education

†4160. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assessment has been made regarding increase in the number of students in secondary schools during the year 2007-08 as a result of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan;

(b) if so, the percentage of increase expected; and

(c) whether adequate infrastructure is available in secondary schools to cope with the increasing number of students?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) A Committee of the Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE), in their report on "Universalisation of Secondary Education" (June, 2005) has projected an enrolment of 3.48 crore in classes IX-X in 2007-08 based on 100% success of SSA, and an enrolment of 2.80 crore based on 75% success of SSA. The enrolment figure for classes IX and X for the year 2004-05 (as on 30.9.2004) as indicated in the Selected Educational Statistics prepared by this Ministry, was 2.43 crore.

(c) School Education is primarily under the preview of the State Governments and, it is mainly for them to provide adequate infrastructure in secondary schools. Central Government is also committed to make secondary education of good quality available, accessible and affordable to all young persons, and is implementing Centrally Sponsored Schemes such as ICT@ school, Integrated Education for Disabled Children, etc.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.